



# Fact Sheet

California Environmental Protection Agency

 **Air Resources Board**

## Air Quality Handbook on Land Use

As part of the Air Resources Board's (ARB) Community Health Program, the ARB is developing a draft Air Quality Handbook on Land Use (draft Handbook). The draft Handbook is intended to serve as a general reference guide for evaluating and reducing air pollution impacts associated with new projects that go through the land use decision-making process. The ARB is also developing related information and technical evaluation tools for addressing cumulative impacts in a community. They will be available through the ARB's Internet site or in the form of future supplements.

The draft Handbook is an informational document with recommendations that are not requirements or mandates for land use agencies or local air districts. It describes tools that can be used to support land use decision-makers in addressing the potential for cumulative emissions, exposure, and health risk.

The draft Handbook builds upon California's General Plan Guidelines that are being revised and updated by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR). The OPR Guidelines inform local governments on the land use planning process and explain California's legal requirements for General Plans.

The draft Handbook is being developed with the help of a group of interested stakeholders convened by the ARB. The stakeholder group is comprised of representatives from local land use and air agencies, community interest groups, and business.

The draft Handbook describes the air quality-land use relationship, and the roles and responsibilities of State and local agencies in the land use decision-making process, including the role of school districts. It discusses concepts and possible approaches for evaluating and addressing site-specific and cumulative air pollution impacts. It also identifies evaluation and mapping tools that the ARB is developing and actions that it is taking to reduce cumulative air pollution impacts within its authority. Finally, the draft Handbook provides a menu of approaches that are geared to elicit more public involvement in the decision-making process as well as options to consider in making all of California's communities a healthier place to live.

### **Next Steps**

ARB staff intends to present the draft Handbook to its Board in December. In order to meet this deadline, a final draft Handbook will be available for public review and comment in November. However, the ARB is interested in getting your perspective on the draft Handbook and invites you to take this early opportunity to comment. In order to be reflected in the November final draft, we encourage you to submit your comments by October 14, 2003. However, all comments received prior to the December 11-12, 2003 Board meeting will be considered.

### **For More Information**

The draft Handbook is available on ARB's website at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/ch/ch.htm>. You may also call the ARB's Public Information Office at (916) 322-2990. You may also obtain this document in an alternative format by contacting ARB's ADA Coordinator at (916) 322-4505 (voice); (916) 324-9531 (TDD, Sacramento area only); or (800) 700-8326 (TDD, outside Sacramento).

For more information regarding the draft Handbook, please contact Dr. Linda Murchison, Assistant Division Chief of ARB's Planning and Technical Support Division, at (916) 322-5350. You may also contact Ms. Lucille van Ommering at (916) 323-0296, or e-mail her with your comments at [lvanomme@arb.ca.gov](mailto:lvanomme@arb.ca.gov).